

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15349 061558Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 EB-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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R 061514Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5338

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, PO

SUBJ: SOARES MAKES APPEARANCE IN LONDON AT NOONTIME

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PAGE 02 LONDON 15349 061558Z

REF: (A) LONDON 15244; (B) LONDON 14826 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ENROUTE BACK TO PORTUGAL FROM BLACKPOOL, PSP LEADER MARIO SOARES MADE BRIEF APPEARANCE IN LONDON UNDER AUSPICES OF CATHOLIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. IMPACT OF SOARES ON BRITISH AND DIPLOMATIC GUESTS WAS SEVERELY LIMITED BY MULTIPLICITY OF LANGUAGES (ENGLISH, FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE) AND RAREFIED ATMOSPHERE OF PROGRESSIVE CATHOLICISM CREATED BY SPONSORING ORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY

1. WITH APPEARANCE AT LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE IN BLACKPOOL AND CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON PORTUGAL BEHIND HIM (REFTEL A), PSP LEADER MARIO SOARES MADE APPEARANCE IN LONDON BEFORE GUESTS HASTILY ASSEMBLED BY CATHOLIC INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (CIIR) OCTOBER 3.

2. SOARES WAS INTRODUCED BY REVEREND ALBERT HASTINGS, WHO MADE EXTENSIVE USE OF HIS PREROGATIVES AS CHAIRMAN, REAFFIRMING CIIR INTEREST IN PORTUGAL AND IN DECOLONIZATION OF PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN AFRICA (WIRIYAMU REPORT OF 1973) AND CIIR'S VIEW OF PRESENT SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. COPIES OF HASTINGS LENGTHY INTRODUCTION WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO AUDIENCE AND HAVE BEEN PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER DEPARTMENT AND LISBON.

3. WHEN FINALLY INTRODUCED, SOARES GAVE CURSORY EXPOSITION OF DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL SINCE HIS LAST APPEARANCE IN LONDON UNDER SAME SPONSORSHIP IN 1973. SOARES SPOKE IN HEAVILY ACCENTED FRENCH WITH INTERRUPTIONS FOR RATHER HALTING AND INACCURATE TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH. THEREAFTER, SOARES ANSWERED A NUMBER OF PERTINENT QUESTIONS, LABORIOUSLY TRANSLATED INTO PORTUGUESE WITH HIS ANSWERS (IN PORTUGUESE TRANSLATED BACK INTO ENGLISH). WHOLE EFFECT OF ALL THIS WAS HIGHLY CONFUSING TO AUDIENCE.

4. WHILE IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE DIGEST OF SOARES REMARKS, EMBASSY OFFICER IN ATTENDANCE NOTED A FEW HIGH POINTS IN HIS ADDRESS AND ANSWERS WHICH SEEMED TO RELATE DIRECTLY TO CRITICISMS OF HIM AND OF PSP POLICY VOICED BY LEFT-WING IN BLACKPOOL (REFTEL A). FOR EXAMPLE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LONDON 15349 061558Z

SOARES ADMITTED THAT POLICY OF PSP IN PORTUGAL IN JOINING OR EVEN LEADING SIXTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT CREATED PROBLEMS FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY UK AND FRANCE. HOWEVER, PSP FELT COALITION IN PORTUGAL, WHICH REPRESENTED 80 PERCENT OF VOTE IN LAST ELECTIONS, WAS BEST HOPE FOR MOVEMENT TOWARD DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM COMBINE WITH INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS IN PORTUGAL.

5. ASKED WHETHER HE, BECAUSE OF HIS OWN EXPERIENCE, WOULD PROMOTE MORE LIBERAL POLICY ON POLITICAL PRISONERS, SOARES REPLIED THAT COALITION GOVERNMENT WOULD MOVE AS FAST AS POSSIBLE TO ADJUDICATE CASES OF THOSE PEOPLE IMPRISONED IN PORTUGAL, EITHER BRINGING CASES TO TRIAL PROMPTLY OR SECURING RELEASE IMMEDIATELY.

6. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT WAS SOARES STATEMENT THAT PORTUGUESE SITUATION FOR PSP IS OF UTMOST INTEREST TO FREE WORLD BECAUSE OF ITS IMPACT ON SITUATION WITHIN SPAIN. SOARES SAID SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY IS CONSIDERABLY CLOSER TO PSP THAN TO PCP AND FUTURE OF COALITION GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGAL MAY WELL PORTEND PEACEFUL EVOLUTION IN SPAIN.

7. REGARDING EFFECTIVENESS OF PSP, SOARES SAID THAT ITS SUCCESS IN LAST ELECTION FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY HAD BEEN FOLLOWED BY FURTHER SUCCESSES IN TRADE UNION ELECTIONS. PSP HAD ALSO CONVINCINGLY DEMONSTRATED ITS ABILITY TO ORGANIZE AND STAGE STREET DEMONSTRATIONS, AND THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT PSP COMMANDED MAJOR SUPPORT FROM POPULACE.

3. IN DESCRIBING PERIOD OF CHANGE SINCE FALL OF CAETANO REGIME, SOARES SAID MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS WERE DECOLONIZATION (WITH MAJOR OUTSTANDING DIFFICULTIES IN REGARD TO ANGOLA) AND INTERNAL MOVES SUCH AS AGRARIAN REFORM AND SOCIALIZATION OF THE ECONOMY. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID SIXTY PERCENT OF THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY HAD BEEN NATIONALIZED.

9. WHILE SOARES SPOKE IN PHILOSOPHICAL VEIN ABOUT REVOLUTION, HE SAID FURTHER TRANSITION OF PORTUGAL TOWARD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 LONDON 15349 061558Z

SOCIALISM WAS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. HE ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO THE UPCOMING MEETING OF THE EEC ON AID TO PORTUGAL, AND NOTED THAT BILATERAL SUPPORT WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED.

10. AT END OF MEETING CHAIRMAN HASTINGS READ MESSAGE FROM DAVID ENNALS AT FOREIGN OFFICE, WHICH PRAISED BOTH SOARES AS WELL AS CIIR FOR HOLDING THE SESSION.
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